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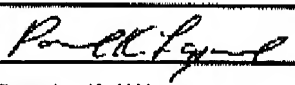
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| <b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b><br>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) |   | Application Number     | 10/660,997                     |
|   |   | Filing Date            | September 12, 2003             |
|   |   | First Named Inventor   | David J. Ecker                 |
|   |   | Art Unit               | Not Yet Determined             |
|   |   | Examiner Name          | Not Yet Determined             |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission  | 3 | Attorney Docket Number | IBIS0063-100 (DIBIS-0002US,P2) |

| ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)  |   |   |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply<br><input type="checkbox"/> After Final<br><input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request<br><input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request<br><input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement<br><input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application<br><input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers<br><input type="checkbox"/> Petition<br><input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application<br><input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation<br>Change of Correspondence Address<br><input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer<br><input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund<br><input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group<br><input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences<br><input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information<br><input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s)<br>(please identify below): |
| Remarks  |   |   |
| <b>SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT</b>  |   |   |
| Print or Individual name   | Paul K. Legaard/Reg. No. 38,534   |   |
| Signature  |    |   |
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Applicants: Ecker, Griffey, Hofstadler, Sampath, McNeil, Crooke, and Hannis

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Serial No.: 10/660,997

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Determined

Filed: 12 September 2003

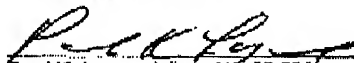
Examiner: Not Yet Determined

Title: **Methods For Rapid Detection And Identification Of Bioagents In Epidemiological And Forensic Investigations**

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Paul K. Legard Reg. No. 38,534

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Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows.